



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

# Montana

## **Emergency Unemployment Compensation – 2008** **2008 Supplemental Appropriations Act (EUC08) - Public Law 110-186** **FACT SHEET**

### **When did the state enter into the agreement with United States Department of Labor?**

Governor Schweitzer signed an agreement with the United States Department of Labor on July 1, 2008.

### **What does this agreement mean for Montana Unemployment Insurance Claimants?**

An individual who has exhausted all "regular" Unemployment Insurance Benefits and is not eligible for a "new" Unemployment Insurance claim in Montana or another state can file a claim for an extension.

### **How can a claimant file a claim?**

Customers can begin filing claims on Monday, July 7, 2008. Claims can be filed by the following options:

Customers can access the Unemployment Insurance Internet application at [UI4U.mt.gov](http://UI4U.mt.gov).  
Or Call:

Billings Claims Center (406) 247-1000  
Helena Claims Center (406) 444-2545

### **When is the earliest effective date for an extension claim?**

The first effective date of an Initial Claim under the extension is July 6, 2008.

### **How many weeks of benefits can a claimant be eligible for?**

The duration of the extension claim is the lesser of 13 weeks or 50% of the "regular" claim duration. Individuals may be eligible for anywhere from 4 to 13 weeks of emergency benefits depending on what the duration was on their "regular" claim.

Example: If an individual's "regular" claim was eligible for 22 weeks, their extension claim would be eligible for 11 weeks of benefits.

### **How much per week would a claimant be eligible to receive?**

The claimant would be eligible for the same weekly benefit amount as the individual's last "regular" claim.

Example: If their regular Unemployment Insurance Claim was eligible for \$200 per week then the extension claim would be eligible for \$200 per week.

### **The program offers a "reach back" provision. What is a "reach back" provision?**

The "reach back" provision allows an individual whose claim expired or who has exhausted his/her claim on or after May 5, 2007, is currently unemployed and is not currently eligible for a "regular" UI claim, to apply for emergency benefits.

### **How long will customers be able to file for the extension claims?**

The last effective date of the EUC08 initial claims will be March 22, 2009.

The last date Montana can make payments to claimants is June 27, 2009.

### **How will eligible customers be notified of their potential eligibility?**

The governor's office has issued a press release to inform customers of the beginning of the program.

All claimants who may be eligible will be sent a notification letter to their last known address.

If you have any questions, please contact Claims Processing Center Bureau Chief, Shirley Rush at (406) 444-0888; Special Program Manager, Colleen Scow at (406) 444-2611; Helena Center Managers: Connie Geiger at (406) 444-3466; Paul Martin at (406) 444-1411; Billings Center Managers: Tom Coonradt at (406) 247-1043; and Merrill Watkins at (406) 247-9010.